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Upper Picture—The boy who made fifty bushels of corn with a goat at the plow. Below—Jerry H. Moore and the corn from his acre, 228 3/4 bushels.

DAD'S OLD RECORD BROKEN BY THE BOY
(Continued From First Page.)

"No, not real agriculture. Good text books give a great many valuable suggestions about agriculture, but the real science can only be learned by practice upon the farm. The laws in a number of Southern States required that agriculture should be taught in the common schools, but compliance with the law was mainly zero. The difficulty was increased by the fact that nearly three-fourths of the rural teachers were women."

An Educational Acre.
The difficulty was met by organizing the Boys' Corn Clubs. The county superintendent of public instruction and the rural teachers select the boys and organize the clubs. The farmers' co-operative demonstration work of the United States Department of Agriculture furnishes the plan and the instructors; the teacher sees that each boy thoroughly understands them, and the county farm demonstration agents assist in supervision of the field work. Each boy takes one acre upon his father's farm and works it under the instructions, and at the end of the season he must furnish a complete account of each field operation and its cost, for the prize is for the largest yield at the lowest cost per bushel. The bankers and merchants furnish the prizes. There is also a special honor prize. The boy who wins in his county is awarded a diploma by the Governor of the State. The boy who stands highest in the State is given a free trip to Washington; and is awarded a diploma by the secretary of agriculture.

"The Boys' Corn Clubs have accomplished more than was dreamed possible. They have taught the boys how to study agriculture and how to apply written instructions to the farm. They have given the boys a new and larger view of the possibilities of the soil, and they are filled with an ambition to become great farmers because they have achieved something of note and they see a great future in the vocation. The boy in the club has learned one thing well and he will strive for the rest."

"There is more in this Boys' Corn Club work than merely learning how to produce a good crop of corn; it has suddenly transformed boys into men and in some cases into heroes. It has been a most potent instrumentality in influencing the fathers to adopt better methods. There are some farmers who will not accept a modern system of farming. They persist in using implements and methods antiquated a thousand years ago. But when they see a great corn crop and bring home the prizes, they mellow and 'come across.'"

The boys have solved the problem of cheaper food for the masses—more corn and how to raise it. Nine Southern States—Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas—produced in 1910 over 153,000,000 bushels more corn than in 1909. To 46,225 boys in the clubs, studying and making corn, is due a large measure of credit for the achievement.

Here's Corn-Growing for You.
The Boys' Corn Club work for 1910 is showing some wonderful yields. In one club of forty-eight boys in Mississippi the average was ninety-two bushels per acre. Nineteen boys in South Carolina received certificates from the government for great yields. Many boys in the different States produced over 150 bushels per acre, and a few went beyond 200 bushels to the acre. Jerry H. Moore, of Florence, South Carolina, fifteen years of age, son of a country Methodist preacher, holds the record for the highest yield for the year, 228 3/4 bushels, weighed and measured by three responsible men.

field and plowed it. Then I advised him to plow again. When the boy wanted some fertilizer his father refused to permit him to buy until I went security and promised to make good all losses, if any. The boy's corn was measured this week and made eighty-four bushels to the acre. His father's corn on three sides of the boy's, made nine bushels per acre. When the corn was weighed and the father's went to the pigs and the son's sold for seed corn at \$2 per bushel, the father talked front. It was rich to hear him talk about his son's corn. He said if he had known how to make corn twenty years before he would have had decent clothes now and be rated as somebody."

A Girl Corn-Grower.
In Clarendon county, South Carolina, there was 142 members in the Boys' Corn Club, and the average of all was sixty-two bushels per acre. One little girl, fourteen years old, Hannah Floyd, of Manning, South Carolina, wanted to join the club. She made 120 bushels and was lionized by her neighbors. Among other honors, the county sent her to the great corn exhibit at Columbia, South Carolina. While there a stalwart Senator was introduced to her and remarked that he felt like hugging any girl that could accomplish so much, and banteringly said, "I know a dozen boys in my county who want to marry you." The girl replied, "There are a hundred boys waiting down in Sumter county."

At Rogers, Ark., Earl Hopping, a boy fifteen years old, joined the Boys' Corn Club, but his father was unable to furnish him a horse or mule to work his acre, and he broke a goat to harness and did all the work with it. Note, in the accompanying picture, the determined look of the boy, in which the goat shares. Also observe the plow adjusted to the goat and the cart for hauling fertilizers.

I paused a moment in my rapid outline of the Boys' Corn Club work, given much as I have given it here and the teacher remarked: "How interesting! I should like to learn the yield of corn per acre of some of the boys."

"I will give you the names of the winners of the first prize in each State," I replied. Here is a duplicate of the list I handed her, giving the names and addresses of the winners of the trip to the capital of their country, and also the yields of their respective acres and the cost per bushel:

Hughes A. Harden, Banks, Ala., 120 bushels, 32 cents per bushel.
Ira Smith, Silver, Ark., 119 bushels, 8 cents per bushel.
Joseph Stone, Center, Ga., 102 5/8 bushels, 29 cents per bushel.
Stephen G. Henry, Melrose, La., 139 8-10 bushels, 13.6 cents per bushel.
William Williams, Decatur, Miss., 116 4-7 bushels, 18 cents per bushel.
W. Ernest Starnes, Hickory, N. C., 117 2-7 bushels, 36 cents per bushel.
Floyd Gayer, Tishomingo, Okla., 95-1-12 bushels, 8 cents per bushel.
Jerry H. Moore, Winona, S. C., 228 3-4 bushels, 43 cents per bushel.
Norman Smith, Covington, Tenn., 125 1-2 bushels, 37 cents per bushel.
Wm. Rodgers Smith, Karnes City, Tex., 83-1-8 bushels, 13-2-3 cents per bushel.
Maurice Olgers, Sutherland, Va., 168 bushels, 40 cents per bushel.
In addition a second prize was given from South Carolina, and one from the Sixth Alabama Congressional District. These were won by:
Archie Odum, Bennettsville, S. C., 177 3-4 bushels, 23 cents per bushel.
John Williams, Tuscaloosa, Ala., 82 3-4 bushels, 49 cents per bushel.
There are points in that list worth noting. I pointed out to my visitors. "You will note that the extraordinary yield of Jerry Moore was secured at a greatly increased cost per bushel. This follows past experience that excessive yields are not so profitable as medium yields. Probably 100 to 125 bushels to the acre, on an average, yield a larger net income than 200 bushels or over. The product of Archie Odum, 177 3-4 bushels at 23 cents per bushel is really more of an achievement than 43 cents."

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mother, sisters and neighbors soon know it and become converts."
"It is a wonderful work. The magnitude of it is scarcely conceivable," exclaimed both visitors. "Does the Department of Agriculture do all this for the people, without aid?"
"By no means," I replied. "In Virginia Governor Mann and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Eggleston are most influential supporters, and the State government is back of the boys' corn movement. In North Carolina and Georgia the State colleges of agriculture are co-operating financially and industrially. In South Carolina the State Commissioner of Agriculture is a most efficient supporter; and that State directly gives aid. In Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas the State colleges of agriculture, the State commissioners of agriculture and the superintendents of public instruction are efficient co-operators. In Oklahoma and Texas the agents of the Farmers' Co-operative Demonstration Work organize the club. The national Department of Agriculture does much, but everybody helps."
"It must cost a large sum of money," remarked the teacher.
"Not as much as you would suppose. The General Education Board of New York contributes liberally; States, counties, corporations and individuals lend financial aid and have reduced the expenses to 30 cents for each boy's farm that is worked under demonstration."
"The whole story sounds like a fairy tale," said the teacher. "Are you sure it's real?"
"It is intensely real to the boy who toils under a sultry sun six days in the week to work his acre, and in silent solitude watches its growing on Sunday; it is a welcome conclusion to the doubling father; it is the fruition of a dream to the fond mother; it is simply a novel to such as hear the tale, but never saw the boy."

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